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1955-56 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP WILL FEATURE BLUE GEESE

A black and white opaque watercolor featuring three blue geese in flight, passing over a cattail marsh, has been chosen as the design for the 1955-56 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, John L. Farley, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, announced today.

Stanley Stearns, 16 Cedar Street, Binghamton, New York, is the artist who drew the winning design for the sixth annual "duck stamp" competition. This will be the 22d stamp to be issued in the Federal duck stamp series.

A panel of waterfowl experts judged Mr. Stearn's design as the best of the 93 designs submitted in the competition. During the judging, all entries were handled with complete impartiality. The artists' names and other distinguishing features were masked by mounting the entries behind large art boards which contained 5" x 7" openings.

Edward J. Bierly, 2723 S. Buchanan, Arlington, Va., with his picture of old squaw ducks was the runner-up. Third place went to Harry C. Adamson, 995 Carol Lane, Lafayette, Calif., for his design of blue geese.

The design selected for each year's duck stamp is chosen by a judging committee of waterfowl authorities from among entries submitted by artists from every part of the country. Prior to 1949, however, outstanding wildlife artists were invited to submit entries and the selection was made from this limited group. In that year the limitations were lifted and a public contest was decided upon in order to give an opportunity for all wildlife artists to compete in the future.

Invited to serve with Director Farley on November 23 as members of the Judging Committee were: Assistant Postmaster General Albert J. Robertson; Assistant Secretary of the Interior Orme Lewis; Donald R. McLeod, Superintendent, Engraving Division, Bureau of Engraving and Printing; the noted wildlife artists Roger Tory Peterson and Walter Weber; Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, President, and C. R. Gutermuth, Vice President, Wildlife Management Institute; Charles H. Callison, Conservation Director, and Carl D. Shoemaker, National Wildlife Federation; Michael Hudoba, Associate Editor of Sports Afield; Arthur Grahame, Washington representative of Outdoor Life; Richard W. Westwood, Editor, Nature Magazine; and Howard Zahniser, Executive Secretary, Wilderness Society. A number of Service waterfowl experts also served as judges.

A total of 93 designs was submitted by 66 contestants in this contest. Twenty-six States and the District of Columbia were represented among the entries. Illinois headed the list with eight contestants; California had five; Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania, four each; Arizona, Connecticut, Nebraska, New Jersey,

New York, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin, three apiece; Louisiana, Oregon, and Virginia, two each. Alabama, Colorado, District of Columbia, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas were represented by one contestant apiece.

Jay N. (Ding) Darling, famous cartoonist and noted conservationist, then head of the former Bureau of Biological Survey (one of the predecessor agencies of the present Fish and Wildlife Service) fittingly designed the first of the annual series of migratory waterfowl hunting stamps issued by the Federal Government. This first stamp went on sale on August 14, 1934, and expired on June 30, 1935. The quantity sold of that issue amounted to 635,001 stamps.

Succeeding duck stamp artists were: Frank W. Benson, 1935-36; Richard E. Bishop, 1936-37; J. D. Knap, 1937-38; Roland Clark, 1938-39; Lynn Bogue Hunt, 1939-40; Francis L. Jacques, 1940-41; E. R. Kalmbach, 1941-42; A. Lassell Ripley, 1942-43; Walter E. Bohl, 1943-44; Walter A. Weber, 1944-45 and 1950-51; Owen J. Gromme, 1945-46; Robert W. Hines, 1946-47; Jack Murray, 1947-48; Maynard Reese, 1948-49 and 1951-52; Roger E. Preuss, 1949-50; John H. Dick, 1952-53; Clayton B. Seagears, 1953-54; Harvey Sandstrom, 1954-55.

The duck stamp has become familiar to all migratory waterfowl hunters and to philatelists and conservationists throughout the country since the first issue in the series went on sale in 1934. A new stamp is issued each year by the Post Office Department which is in charge of its distribution and sale. It goes on sale on July 1 and expires on the following June 30. Nearly twice the size of a special delivery stamp, it sells for \$2. Everyone over 16 years of age who hunts migratory waterfowl is required to have one of these stamps in his possession, in addition to his State hunting license. More than two million duck stamps are sold annually. Duck stamp revenues are used to supplement other funds appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the purchase, development, administration, and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country.

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(NOTE: Glossy prints of the duck stamp design and of the contest judging are available on a loan basis for reproduction in newspapers and magazines.)